

Proclamation in London for xx day of October Anno 1560

# By the Quene



Her Maiestie vnderstandyng, that aswell before, as sythens the late Proclamation made, for reducyng of the base monies to theyr equall values, sundry people both straungers & Englyshe, haue bought and gathered together great summes of the Testons (as it is to be doubted) to make some perticuler gayne by meltyng, or carryng the same out of the Realme, whereby the good entent of her Maiestie, to reduce the same to fine monies, shalbe greatly hindered, and consequently the common weale of this Realme, shal lache the fruite longe desired:

Hath therfore by aduice of her Counsaile, thought meete to declare, and doth declare all maner of persons that shal buye any maner of monies within this Realme, or shal blanche or wyllyngly batter, breake, or melt any one peece of monies, or shal carry any maner of summe of monye ouer the seas, except so much in his or theyr purse, which he or they shal weare, accordyng to the licens of the lawes, or shal transport any bullion or plate, or shal receiue or prouyde by way of exchaunge, or barterynge of one monyes for another, any summes of monye, to thintent to blanche, batter, breake, melt, or transport any of the same, or otherwysse to vtter at hygher prices then they be valued: the same to be taken, and commonly reputed as a felon, in suche cases as by the lawe is already in sundry of the same poyntes ordered, and as an enemye to the Realme, and shalbe also forthwith attached, and committed to the next common Gaile, and thoffence to be certified forthwith to the priuie counsaile, if it be not within the iurisdiction of the counsailes established in the North, or in the marches of Wales, in which seuerall places, to be certified to the counsaile there, that seuerer punishment may be done vpon thoffendours, accordyng to the lawes, and such further deuysed, accordyng to the behemencie and malice in the contempt and offence, which as the tyme serueth, her Maiestie is necessarily occasioned to extende to the greatestte and moste seuerer payne that may be well deuysed. And because it may be that some marchaunt straungers may be found to haue be gylty of this cryme: Her Maiestie requireth that if any such shalbe found, although the punishment shal seme to be very seuerer, that all the reste of the honest and saythfull sorte of the same straungers, as in dede her Maiestie iudgeth that there be great numbers within this Realme, wyl not mislike the extremitie of the punishment. And for that this maner of offence is so hurtfull to euery member of this common wealth, that whosoever shal discouer, or by good diligence helpe to fynde out any person gyltye herein, shal do a very good dede to euery member and subiect of the same: Therefore her Maiestie assureth, that whosoever shal disclose or reuele any maner of person that hath or shal commit any thyng contrary to the tenour of this Proclamacion, he shalbe taken as one that loueth and seketh the honour and weale both of her Maiestie and the Realme, and for a rewarde shal haue all the monye that shalbe so founde, eyther bought, blanchd, battred, broken, melted, carryed away, or prouided and gotten by exchaunge as is aforesaid. And if it shal chaunce that the summe be vnder .xl. li. he shal haue asmuch of the Quenes Maiestie, as shal make by the summe of .xl. li. and further shal haue at her Maiesties hande, the graunt of anye reasonable sute meete for such a person as the same shalbe. And yf any maner of person shal but suspect any other for doynge or traualyng, or goynge about to do any thing, contrarye to this Proclamation, as to disclose in any house or other secrete place any melters, or furnesse made ready to melt, or in any bote or vessel any summe of monye to be hydden, or other lyke to be transported, & shal enfourme any officer to make search, and vpon the search the offence shalbe founde: the sayd enfourmer shal haue one halfe of that which shalbe founde, and thofficers shal not (contrary to the wyl of thenfourmer) disclose the name of the enfourmer, but shal vse all secrese and speede to fynde out the offence.

And further, because it is perceiued that much trouble and disquiete aryseth at this present, for discernyng and knowyng of the basest Testons of two pence farthing, from thother Teston of foure pence halspeny, although as much is set forth in wordes in the Proclamation as can be, to teach the same, both by markes and by colour, and of late also by settyng forth in print, the printes & stampes of the sayde Testons of two pence farthyng, of al sortes: Yet for more helpe to take away asmuch of the trouble as may be: her Maiestie hath ordered within her Citie of London, that by order of the

Teston of four pence  
with a Portcullis.



Teston of two pence  
with a Greyhound.



Maio: of the same Citie, there shalbe in sundry open places of the Citie, certayne honest, faithfull and shyllfull persons, that shal sytte to vieue and consider all maner of Testons that shalbe brought to them, and shal shew which be and ought to be of the value of four pence halspeny, and which of two pence farthyng, and shal spedely stryke the sayd Testons of four pence halspeny with a marke o: pynt of a Portcullisse, before the face o: head of the hyng in the sayde Teston: and the Teston of two pence farthyng with a marke o: pynt of a Greyhounde set behynde the head of the hyng in the sayd base Teston of two pence farthyng: so as the same may be better knowen and discerned, accordyng to the two stamper here with pynted in the margent. And as the same order shalbe founde to do any good: her Maiestie wyll cause the lyke to be obserued in other Cities and Townes of this Realme. And neuerthelesse, to make a synall good ende of all these troubles that do ryse of these base monyes: Her Maiestie hath already begonne to sette by a Quynage of fine monyes in the Tower of London, and meaneth to forbear no charge, but with all possible diligence to aduance and furder the same, so as euery person vpon knowledge, which shalbe very shortly gotten, bringing his base monyes, shal within twenty dayes haue fyne monyes for the same. And for more ease of the further partes of the Realme: her Maiestie meaneth also to send vnto diuers partes therof, sundry quantites of fine monyes of syluer and golde, to be exchaunged for the sayde base monyes. And vntyll that tyme, her Maiestie doubteth not, but her louing subiectes wyll beare with some small trouble herein at the fyrst, considering the great commoditie that hereafter playnely & spedely shal ensue.

Further also her Maiestie wyll and commaundeth all officers, to whom thassise of breade, wine, o: ale, o: the rule o: clewshippe of any sayre o: market doth belonge, that they forthwith do resort and repayre into euery sayre and market, and se that their offyces be executed with all diligence, for the good assise and reasonable pryces of all maner of victualles, comming to the sayd markettes & sayres. For her Maiestie meaneth, yf vpon information o: complaint to be made, any person shalbe founde negligent herein, the same shalbe duely tryed, and yf the fault be founde, thoffendour shal not only be punyshed, as to the case shal seme meete: but also her Maiestie wyll cause the fraunchesse and libertie to be seased and taken away, be it by graunt of lepte, vieu of franche, pledge o: any other wyse by any charter graunted to any Maio: Aldermen, Baylyffes, Prouostes, o: anye other person. And because many liettes be nowe kept within the moneth of Michelmass: Her Maiestie admonisheth al stewardes in liettes to haue good regarde hereunto, and al Lieutenantes of Wieres o: they: deputies in they: absence, and Iustices of peace, to consider of all these Proclamacions nowe publyshed, concernyng these matters of monyes, and to assemble them selues, and acorde, and deuise orders howe the same may be within euery hundred diligently executed, & specyall meanes vsed howe to fynde out the persons offendyng herein, and forthwith accordyng to this Proclamation to pcecede agaynst them.

Furthermore, lyke as her Maiestie hath sene it very conuenient and necessary, to reduce the base monyes of syluer to the equall value of the fine: So is it as necessary for the weale of this Realme, that the forreigne golde currant within this Realme, should be of equall value with the gold of this Realme. For execution wherof: Her Maiestie, by aduyce of her counsaile doth ordeyne, that al maner of Crownes named Burgundien, Kaisars o: frenche Crownes, that hytherto haue ben currant for six shyllynges and four pence, shal from henceforth be currant but for six shyllynges, and not aboue. And all peeces of golde called Pistolletes, which haue hytherto ben valued at six shyllynges and two pence, shal hereafter be currant but for, v. shyllynges and .x. pence, and not aboue: vpon payne that whosoener shal vtter any of the same at any hygher value, o: shal breake, melt, o: transport any of the same, to suffer lyke punyshment as is aboue mentioned, in lyke cases for any other monyes.

GOD SAVE THE QVENE.

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¶ Cum privilegio Regie Maiestatis.